

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 111921Z NOV 75  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6418  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION OECD PARIS  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 17360

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: EGEN PFOR ETRD EC OECD UK  
SUBJECT: EC PREPARATION FOR CIEC: BRITISH VIEWS ON EC  
MANDATE, MSP AND SEPARATE SEAT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9994; STATE 261711; BRUSSELS 10069;  
LONDON 15569, 14952

1. EGERTON (FCO ENERGY) CLAIMS RECENT PRESS AND OTHER  
REPORTS OF EC DELIBERATIONS ON A COMMUNITY MANDATE HAVE  
BEEN DISTORTED, MORE SPECIFICALLY WITH REGARD TO DISPUTE  
OVER INCLUSION OF A COMMITMENT TO A MINIMUM SAFEGUARD  
PRICE (MSP). HE AFFIRMS UK IS INSISTENT ON SECURING EC  
COMMITMENT ON MSP SO THAT COMMUNITY MEMBER STATES CAN IN  
FACT BE IN A POSITION TO IMPLEMENT IEA-RELATED COMMITMENT  
FAILING SOME EC COMMITMENT TIED TO CIEC PARTICIPATION,  
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BRITISH FEAR DRENCH WILL REFUSE TO ACCEPT MSP AND IN THE

PROCESS BLOCK ADOPTION OF IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD BE NECESSARY FOR ANY AND ALL EC MEMBER STATES TO COMPLY WITH MSP OBLIGATIONS AGREED TO IN IEA.

2. EGERTON ACKNOWLEDGES THERE MAY BE SOME OBFUSCATION OF BASIC ISSUE AS A RESULT OF HAGGLING OVER SPECIFIC WRDING OF MANDATE. BUT HE CONTENDS EC PARTNERS UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY WELL WHAT BRITISH ARE REALLY AFTER IN MANDATE EXERCISE: AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY THE FRENCH TO IMPLEMENT IN EC THE MSP SCHEME AGREED TO IN IEA. HE NOTES THERE APE THREE WAYS IN WHICH TO USE CONCEPT OF A MANDATE IN THIS CONTEXT: FIRST, THE MUCH PUBLICIZED EC MANDATE FOR CIEC ITSELF; SECOND, THE DETAILED MANDATES FOR FOUR COMMISSIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED; AND, THIRD, THE UNPUBLICIZED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON MSP WHICH IS A PRECONDITION TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE ABOVE AND WHICH MIGHT, FOR EXAMPLE, BE REFLECTED IN MINUTES TO AN EC COUNCIL OR OTHER HIGH LEVEL MEETING.

3. EGERTON, IN RESPONDING TO FOLLOW ON QUERY ABOUT STATUS OF SEPARATE REPRESENTATION QUESTION, OBSERVED THAT LACK OF MEMBER STATE SUPPORT FOR SEPARATE UK SEAT WOULD TEND TO PUT PRESSURE TO ARRIVE AT AGREED MANDATE ON THOSE FAVORING SINGLE EC REPRESENTATION. HE THUS DID NOT CONSIDER BRITISH TO BE DEMANDEUR IN THIS SITUATION. PREMATURE RESOLUTION OF SEPARATE REPRESENTATION ISSUE WOULD REMOVE LEVERAGE UK HAD TO EXTRACT AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO MAINTAINING EC, INCLUDING FRENCH, SOLIDARITY ON MSP.

4. EGERTON WAS RELAXED ABOUT TIMING. HE THOUGHT DECEMBER 1-2 EC SUMMIT MIGHT WELL BE WHERE REQUIRED HIGH LEVEL DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE. HE NOTED SOME DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURAL POINTS MAY COME UP AT NOVEMBER 15-17 ECONOMIC SUMMIT NEAR PARIS, BUT COMMENTED SMALLER EC COUNTRIES NOT PRESENT MIGHT OBJECT TO SUCH ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED WITHOUT THEM. MOREOVER, EGERTON SUGGESTED TIME WAS NOT OF THE ESSENCE ON SEATING QUESTION INASMUCH AS OPEC PRODUCERS WERE NMT EVEN SCHEDULED TO DECIDE ON THEIR OWN REPRESENTATION UNTIL EARLY DECEMBER AND LDCS WERE HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING CHOICES WITHIN THEIR GROUP.  
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RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

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